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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/383,754	08/26/1999	KEIJI MIYAKE	3517-44	7001

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EXAMINER

TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/383,754

Applicant(s)

MIYAKE ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-16, 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Yang et al. (US Patent No. 6,055,063) and Aiello, Jr. et al. (US Patent No. 6,337,745 B1).

As to claim 1, Yang teaches:

A terminal (110 with print data in fig. 1) that generates original data;

A printer controller (120 in fig. 1) that converts the original data into print data (from spooler 122 converts the print data to jobs in fig. 1, col. 2, lines 47-53);

A printer (160 in fig. 1) that performs print operations for forming an image on a recording medium based on the print data, wherein the printer controller (120 in fig. 1) is connected between the terminal (110 in fig. 1) and a printer (160 in fig. 1), wherein the printer comprises a condition detector that detects a condition of the print operations (i.e., responses

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signal from 160 in fig. 1) and transmitting means for transmitting condition data indicating the condition of the print operations to at least one of the terminal (110 in fig. 1) and the printer controller (120 in fig. 1);

At least one of the terminal and the printer controller comprises receiving means for receiving the condition data (the client 110 receiving responses signal in fig. 1); and

However, Yang does not explicitly teach one of the terminals and the printer controller comprises receiving means and notifying means for receiving and notifying a user of progress of the print operations based on the condition.

Aiello, in the same field of endeavor, teaches one of the terminals and the printer controller comprises receiving means and notifying means (128 in fig. 5) for receiving and notifying a user of progress of the print operations based on the condition (col. 8, lines 25-35 and 51-55).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Yang to have receiving means and notifying means in either the terminal or the printer controller for receiving and notifying a user of progress of the print operations based on the condition as taught by Aiello. The suggestion for modifying the system of Yang can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth by Aiello because Aiello provides a reliable server which manages the information of all of the printers and informs to any user connected to the server and allows the user to keep track the status of the current printing job.

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As to claim 2, Aiello teaches that the condition of the print operations including the printer printing by lines (the mode of printers is indicated on the status window 160 with mode of page or line in fig. 16).

As to claim 3, Yang teaches the printer controller ( 120 in fig. 1) receiving the condition data (i.e., responses signal from 160 in fig. 1) by exchanging between the printer controller and a printer (see exchanging signals between the controller 120 and the output device 160 in fig. 1) .

As to claims 4 and 5, Yang teaches that the printer controller transmits the request signal when requested by a user (see the structure in fig. 1).

As to claim 6, Aiello teaches that the printer controller calculating a total amount of the print data and notifying to user ( 198 in fig. 25 and 202 in fig. 26).

As to claims 7 and 8, Aiello teaches that

The printer controller detecting a print speed as a condition (the server detecting a print speed by showing the time and the rate of CPU in the window 160 in fig. 20).

As to claim 9, Aiello teaches that the printer controller detecting a print speed of a plurality of printers (the server detecting a print speed of a plurality of printers by showing the time and the rate of CPU in the window 160 in fig. 20).

As to claims 10 and 11, Aiello teaches that the printer controller detecting the predicting time for print job (see 198 in fig. 25); and notifying to a user (col. 8, lines 51-55).

As to claim 12, Aiello teaches that the notifying means comprises a display that visually displays the progress of the print operations (see the displaying means 160 in fig. 20)

As to claim 13, Aiello teaches that the notifying means notifies the user of the progress of the print operations (col. 8, lines 50-55).

As to claim 14, Yang teaches the printer controller is a raster image processor (col. 2, lines 47-53).

As to claim 15, Yang teaches that:

Converting means (122 in fig. 1) for converting the original data into the print data (col. 2, lines 47-53).

The motivation of this claim applied to claim 1.

As to claim 16, due to the similarity of this claim to that of claim 15, this claim is rejected as the reasons applied to claim 15.

As to claims 18 and 19, due to the similarities of these claims to that of claim 1, these claims are rejected as the reasons applied to claim 1. Furthermore, Aiello teaches predicting the time for completing the print job in the printer (198 in fig. 25 and 208 in fig. 28).

4. Claims 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Yang et al. (US Patent No. 6,055,063) and Onaga (US Patent No. 5,862,404).

As to claim 17, Yang teaches:

A printer (160 in fig. 1) connected to a printer controller (120 in fig. 1) that converts the original data into print data (from spooler 122 converts the print data to jobs in fig. 1, col. 2, lines 47-53);

A printer (160 in fig. 1) that performs print operations for forming an image on a recording medium based on the print data.

However, Yang does not explicitly teach a printer detects and provides the condition of the print operations to the printer controller.

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Onaga, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a printer (110 in fig. 2) detects and provides the condition of the print operations (205 in fig. 2) to the printer controller (120 in fig. 2).

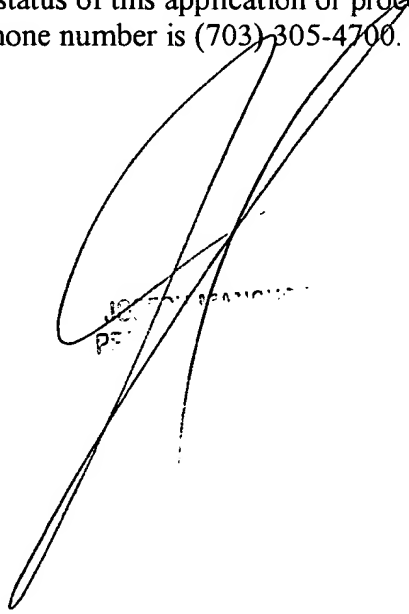
It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Yang for detecting and providing the condition of the print operations to a server as taught by Onaga. The suggestion for modifying the system of Yang can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth by Onaga because Onaga provides a reliable printing system which manages the information of all of the printers and allows the server to keep track the status of the current printing job.

#### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran  
June 29, 2002



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PE